THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, January 20, 1806.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

On PATRIOTISM.

" Vincit amor patriæ." VIRGIL.
" Nunquam aliud natura, nunquam
" Sapientia dicit." JUVENAL.

THERE is a species of philosophy, or rather, as it might be better denominated, " philosophism,"* very prevalent in the world, which aims at the establishment of its reputation by affecting unlimitted singularity, and an indiscriminate opposition to every generally-received opinion; to systems and maxims, which have the concurrent sanction of the most illustrious sages of every age and nation, as well as of the common sense of mankind.

This remark was induced by a reflection on the specious sophistry displayed by persons of this cast, in opposition to that truly noble and beneficent principle, which is the subject of the present essay. It has been alledged that the attachment to his country which warms and actuates the breast of the patriot, is necessarily productive of an illiberality of sentiment, a narrowness of benevolence, inconsistent with our duty as members of the great republic of the world. This mode of reasoning has confessedly, at the first view, a plausibility of appearance very recommendatory and insinuating. But if it be afforded serious consideration its fatality will be evident.

It is not intended here to enter on the adduction of particular arguments, to evince the necessity of the patriotic principle,

* Vide Polwhele's " Unsexed Females," page 10, note

in order to provide for the dearest interests of man, by its influence in promoting the cement and consolidation of civilized society, and thus to make it the cause of all the inestimable advantages resulting from that state, or to prove it to be an innate and instinctive principle, and that, " from the very frame of man, a national brotherhood arises, and a public is recognised by the suffrages of unerring nature," subjects on which some have well and successfully expatiated. Let one or two general observations suffice.

Were the world in a state of perfection, with regard to the moral virtues; were all mankind convinced of their being individually members of one great society, whose interests they lay under a natural and indispensable obligation to promote; did they all feel the propriety of a reciprocal attachment, and were sordid self-interest banished from the earth, then a concern for the particular welfare of the land of our nativity might be considered superfluous and improper. But since the dispositions of men are the very reverse of this, and while they are eagerly engaged in schemes for the prosperity and aggrandizement of the countries to which they respectively belong, and the degradation of others, what would be the consequence were we unconcerned for our particular preservation and welfare! we should be gradually drawn into the spreading vortices of their power, or crushed to pieces in their jarring discord.

It is very far from the intention of the writer, to oppose the doctrine of universal benevolence; we should assuredly consider ourselves to be but separate parts of one great community, united in an extensive relationship, and in ties of charitable affection. We are bound to exercise our benevolence towards our fellow-men, of whatever soil they derive their birth; and the heart should be susceptible of sincere and ardent desires for the happiness of the whole human race.

But will it be seriously denied that there is a particular duty, a particular attachment which we owe our country, an interior *circle* (to borrow the poet's metaphor) which is entwined more closely round the heart? will it be said that nature has planted in the bosom no particular affections, or that none should exist there? will the objectors profess to divest themselves of those more potent sympathies which distinguish the ties of consanguinity and friendship from the general relationship of man? No.

> " The centre mov'd, a circle straight succeeds,
> Another still, and still another spreads;
> Friend, parent, neighbour, first it will embrace,
> His country next, and *next* all human race."*

A

* Pope's Essay on Man.

A particular attachment to our own country, in the present state of things, is, incontrovertibly, what the undisguised and unperverted feelings of nature dictate, is what the present state of mundane affairs requires; and becomes a duty, not only indispensable in a national point of view, but also of high obligation with respect to the universality of things, inasmuch as it operates to maintain in the political world a just counterpoise and equilibrium.

Thus impressed, must we not assign this principle an illustrious rank among the virtues which adorn the human heart? can we cease to feel an affectionate attachment and strongly gravitating disposition towards what we have the peculiar happiness of calling *our country?* or hesitate to adopt the nervous and majestic language of the poet?

"I own the glorious subject fires my breast,
And my soul's darling passion stands confest:
Beyond even love, or friendship's sacred band,
Beyond myself, I prize my native land:
On this foundation would I build my fame,
And emulate the Greek or Roman name;
Think England's peace bought cheaply with my blood,
And die with pleasure for my country's good."*

PHILANGLUS.

Falmouth, January, 1806.

* Rowe.

On the Effect of Habit on the Moral Character.

THE effect of habit upon the moral character has not been sufficiently attended to; though the connection between custom and principle is confessedly great, and it frequently leads to results not expected, and consequently, not guarded against. The early associations of the mind often ripen into settled notions, expand with the growth of man, and, according to their rectitude or obliquity, produce consequences either happy or calamitous. Hence we may infer the important necessity of watching over the actions of children with scrupulous attention: it may be said of example, that one precedent is almost sure to create another; and an action once tolerated, gains immense ground in the mind of an infant; for we naturally ascribe to age wisdom, and to our parents or governors, a sort of sovereign supremacy, and infallibility. Now, if those infallible guardians sanction by their neutrality, any line of conduct whatsoever, the ductile mind of infants instantly decides that such conduct must be proper. Being itself unaccustomed to,

and in fact, for the most part, incapable of analysing actions, and estimating their natural and moral propriety or impropriety, by any secular or religious criterion, it is in every respect the passive recipient of the ideas of those to whom we are entrusted in our tender years; and accordingly, as they implant in us the sentiments of virtue, justice, and equity, so do we grow up. The mind of a child has been considered by some as a mere *tabula rasa*, as adopting, unconsciously, the impressions of good or ill; it is indued by nature, or at least this is the opinion of some ingenious philosophers, with so little discrimination or energy of thinking and judging, that it may even admit the one for the other; and, however strange it may appear, be taught to receive the dictates of impiety, injustice and villainy, as the solemn language of truth and virtue. It is impossible to convince a child of ordinary abilities, of the truth of a self-evident proposition, except it be such obvious ones as that two and two are four, that a whole is greater than its parts, &c. but let the most profound metaphysician try the experiment for once, and see whether they can establish in the mind of a child the following truism, that "it is impossible to be, and not to be," at the same time. He will quickly find that the child must learn the meaning of the terms; for this last is an abstract proposition, relating to a science at once complicated and obscure. Yet, abstractedly considered, it is as obviously self-evident, as that two and two are four.

It would be a matter of not incurious speculation, to contemplate the figure, as we call it, which a man would make in society, on whom the experiment had been tried, of invariably substituting wrong for right, and thus giving him a kind of retrograde education, as to moral principle and conduct—whether such a catechumen would not be, in many respects, inferior to a savage of Labradore? for, let it be observed, that by pursuing such a method, the natural sentiments of the human heart would not be obliterated, as I conceive, inasmuch as our received systems of education have for their object to improve upon nature, and to expand the germs of virtuous excellence which she has sown. In some instances, I am apt to think, that a man so brought up, would be precisely an uncultivated savage: he would have many points of similitude in common with the "untutored Indian," because the refined arts of civilized society have engendered certain duties, which will ever naturally arise from men being so associated; but which duties are altogether unknown to mankind in its pristine, or unembellished state. The moral code of nature is extremely simple, consisting of but few precepts, which are perfectly well known to men, and which sufficiently bind them in their unorganized condition.

Speaking

Speaking temperately, a man might, I should think, be taught in many instances, to act in a manner diametrically opposite to what custom has prescribed, and yet act conformably to the suggestions of nature and unsophisticated reason. The moral character of men is replete with selfishness, hypocrisy, and contradictions; a selfish principle often leads a man astray, instead of expanding his heart with universal philanthrophy, and imbuing him with ideas that rest upon the broad principles of general and active utility. If he possess an instinctive spirit of self-enquiry, an ardent love of truth, and an abhorrence of that passiveness, which is prone to believe every thing which it cannot comprehend; he will soon reveal the flimsy covering which conceals from mankind their true line of conduct, in the path of conscientious duty, substituting in its stead, a creed composed of dogmas, which are founded in error, supported by opinion, and believed from weakness. Nor will he desist from this scrutiny, influenced by the consideration, that designing and superficial individuals, will stigmatize his character. The self-thinking, self-acting, intrepidity of his mind, will not only give ardour in the pursuit, but urge him on to surmount all the obstacles that may be thrown in his way. It requires indeed, no common vigour of genius, or rather of intellectual perspicacity, to suspect the existence of error in that which all are unanimous in upholding; and it appears to me that many men, who really possess this first gift requisite towards the attainment of truth, are intimidated from the pursuit, through a too delicate apprehension, if I may so call it, of what may follow; and an injurious veneration for the opinion of his neighbours, and of the world at large.

MEMOIRS *of the late* LORD NELSON.

(Continued from Page 36.)

INSTEAD of returning home to repose under his laurels, the admiral immediately sailed for Sicily, where he was received as a deliverer by the king. The subjects of that monarch, discontented at his conduct, and supported by the French, had but lately driven him from his capital, after which they established, or rather proclaimed, "The Parthenopean republic." The zeal of Cardinal Ruffo, however, who successfully mingled the character of a soldier, with that of a priest, proved signally efficacious towards the restoration of the exiled monarch. Having marched to Naples at the head of a body of Calabrians, he obliged "the patriots," as they were termed, who were in possession of all the forts, to capitulate; and to this treaty the English, Turkish, and Russian commanders acceded. On the appearance

appearance of Lord Nelson, however, Ferdinand publicly disavowed " The authority of Cardinal Ruffo to treat with subjects in rebellion," and the capitulation was accordingly violated, with the exception of the prisoners in Castella Mare alone, which had surrendered to the English squadron under Commodore Foote. This is the only portion of the admiral's public conduct which has ever been censured; for an Englishwoman* residing abroad having obtained the original treaty in question, thought fit to publish it, accompanied with the severest animadversions.

After having effected the blockade of Malta, procured the evacuation of Rome, greatly contributed to the restoration of the king of Naples to his capital and his throne, Lord Nelson embarked with the English minister to the court of Naples (Sir William Hamilton), and landed at Yarmouth, in his native county, on the 6th of November, after an absence of three years, which had been wholly occupied by a series of the most brilliant and magnanimous achievements.

The populace assembled in crowds to behold the hero of the Nile, and harnessing themselves to his carriage, dragged him to the inn. On his arrival in London, similar honours attended him; and, after dining at the guildhall, he was presented with a superb sword by Mr. Chamberlain Clarke, in the name of the lord mayor and corporation, in testimony of an action " perhaps unequalled in the history of mankind."

The reply, which is as follows, was delivered amidst bursts of applause:

" Sir,

" It is with the greatest pride and satisfaction I receive from this honourable court such a testimony of their approbation of my conduct; and with this VERY SWORD [*his lordship at the same time holding it up in his remaining hand*] I hope soon to aid in reducing our implacable and inveterate enemy to proper and due limits; without which this country can neither hope for nor expect a solid, honourable, and permanent peace!"

His lordship did not remain long inactive, for in consequence of his own pressing solicitations he was enabled once more to hoist his flag in the service of his country; and the admiralty, with a due and appropriate regard to his glory, appointed him to the

* Miss Williams. The mind of Lord Nelson was greatly affected with the charges adduced against him, and Sir William and Lady Hamilton; and we understand that a gentleman who posseses materials for his lordship's life was entrusted by him, a few months before his death, with a written refutation of several of the statements of this lady.

the command of the San Josef, of 110 guns, a ship formerly boarded and taken by himself, with so much glory, in the action off Cape St. Vincent.

A confederacy of the northern powers having alarmed the nation, he was employed to dissolve it. A fleet consisting of eighteen sail of the line and four frigates, together with a number of gun-boats and bomb-vessels, in all fifty-four sail, having been fitted out for this purpose, proceeded from Yarmouth roads for the Baltic, March 12, 1801. The command of this expedition was entrusted to Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, assisted by Vice-Admiral Nelson and Rear-Admiral Totty, the last of whom lost his flag-ship on a sand-bank off the coast of Lincolnshire. On the arrival of the English squadron in the Cattegat, Sir Hyde dispatched a letter to the governor of Cronenburg, in which, after alluding to the hostile conduct of Denmark, he demanded, "Whether he could pass that fortress freely, and without impediment?"

On being answered in the negative, he anchored near to the island of Huen, and, in company of Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson and Rear-Admiral Graves, surveyed the formidable line of ships, radeaus, galleys, fire-vessels, and gun-boats, flanked and supported by extensive batteries on the two islands called the Crowns, the largest of which was mounted with from 50 to 70 pieces of cannon; these were also further strengthened by two ships of seventy guns, and a large frigate, in the inner-road of Copenhagen; while two sixty-four gun ships, without masts, were moored on the flat towards the entrance of the arsenal.

Lord Nelson, who had offered his services for conducting the attack, now shifted his flag from the St. George to the Elephant, and, notwithstanding the formidable preparations against him, fearlessly led the van, and passed the Sound, with little or no loss. On the 2d of April he weighed to engage the Danish fleet, consisting of six sail of the line, eleven floating-batteries, one bomb-ketch, &c. The action commenced at ten o'clock, and, after a sharp and bloody conflict, seventeen sail were either sunk, burnt, or taken.

It ought not to be omitted, on the other hand, that the Danes conducted themselves with great resolution; that their principal batteries, as well as the ships at the mouth of the harbour, were still untouched, and that two of his own division had grounded, and others were in danger; while it would have been extremely difficult to have returned with the prizes under the fire of the batteries.

It was at this critical moment Lord Nelson discovered that he was in full possession of all his faculties, and equally capable of acting the part of a statesman and a warrior, as the following correspondence will sufficiently attest:

No. I.

No. I.

" Lord Nelson has directions to spare Denmark when no longer resisting; but if the firing is continued on the part of Denmark, Lord Nelson must be obliged to set on fire all the floating-batteries he has taken, without having the power of saving the brave Danes who had defended them.

(Signed) " NELSON and BRONTE.

" *To the Brothers of Englishmen, the Danes.*"

No. II.

" His royal highness the prince-royal of Denmark has sent me, General-adjutant Lindholm, on board to his Britannic majesty's vice-admiral the Right Hon. Lord Nelson, to ask the particular object of sending the flag of truce."

No. III.

LORD NELSON'S ANSWER.

" Lord Nelson's object in sending the flag of truce was humanity; he therefore consents that hostilities shall cease, and that the wounded Danes may be taken on shore; and Lord Nelson will take his prisoners out of the vessels, and burn or carry off his prizes, as he shall think fit. Lord Nelson, with humble duty to his royal highness the prince of Denmark, will consider this the greatest victory he ever gained, if it be the cause of a happy reconciliation and union between his own most gracious sovereign, and his majesty the king of Denmark.

(Signed) " NELSON and BRONTE."

Soon after this his lordship went on shore, and a conference having taken place, and an armistice having been agreed to and ratified, on the part of the crown prince on the one hand, and Sir Hyde Parker, commander in chief, on the other, he returned on board.

The entire management of the negociation having thus devolved on Admiral Lord Nelson, he next addressed himself to the Swedish government, and obtained the embargo to be taken off all the English ships in the Baltic. These two grand points having been gained, his lordship, who was obliged, on account of the state of his health, to return home, left instructions to his successor, Vice-Admiral Pole, to complete what was still wanting on the part of Great Britain. The critical death of Paul, the emperor of Russia, the continuance of a formidable fleet in the Baltic, and above all, the memory of the battle of Copenhagen, which in point of fierceness surpassed, and of success nearly equalled that of the Nile, all contributed to the joyful

event that speedily ensued,—a treaty of peace and amity with the northern powers.

A considerable number of small craft being collected along the coast of France, for the avowed purpose of invasion, Lord Nelson had another opportunity of exerting his valour and talents. Hoisting his flag on board the Unite frigate, in the month of August, 1801, then lying at Sheerness, he sailed with a squadron to attack the harbour of Boulogne. On this undertaking he was invested with very extensive and unusual powers. He was even allowed by the admiralty, three aides-de-camp, a circumstance hitherto unprecedented, but granted partly from a consideration of the inconveniencies he was exposed to, from the loss of his right arm. By the attack on Boulogne, the threats of the enemy were silenced, and his preparations checked; the preliminaries of peace being shortly after signed, Lord Nelson retired into the bosom of his chosen circle, at Merton, where he is truly said to have enjoyed the *otium cum dignitate*. But this loved retirement, so dear and soothing to his heart, was destined soon to end. His lordship had here an opportunity of enjoying, in tranquil retirement, the sweets of that peace which he himself had so largely contributed to conquer! At Merton he tasted that ineffable delight which arises from the intercourse of affection and the charms of friendship. These were so much the more soothing to his feeling mind, as he had been for so many years exposed almost without intermission to sufferings, fatigue, and hardship, of every description. Though the noble admiral reposed, during the short interval of peace, from the perils and labours of his professional career, he punctually attended to his public duties of a different kind. He had been elevated, for his superior talents and merit, to a place in the hereditary council of the nation; and though his natural modesty prevented him from often speaking, yet whenever he did so, what he said was so much to the purpose, and expressed with so much energy, that he always commanded the attention and respect of all those who heard him. He seconded, with peculiar zeal, the patriotic endeavours of Earl St. Vincent, to correct the shameful abuses of the naval department.

(To be continued.)

Some ACCOUNT *of* TOUSSAINT.

(Concluded from Page 28.)

HAVING provided for the safety of his master in the first instance, Toussaint no longer resisted the temptations, to join the army of his country, which had (at this period) assumed

a regular form. He attached himself to the corps under the command of a courageous black chief, named Biassou, and was appointed next in command to him. Though possessed of striking abilities, the disposition of this general rendered him unfit for the situation which he held; his cruelty caused him to be deprived of a power which he abused. No one was found equally calculated to supply his place, with the new officer Toussaint; thesefore, quitting for ever a subordinate situation, he was appointed to the command of a division.

If during the early part of his life, the black general had shone conspicuously, through every disadvantage, with the brightest talents and the milder virtues, he now rose superior to all around him, with the qualities and rank of an exalted chief. Every part of his conduct was marked by judgment and benevolence. By the blacks, who had raised him to the dignity he enjoyed, he was beloved with enthusiasm; and, by the public characters of other nations, with whom he had occasion to communicate, he was regarded with every mark of respect and esteem. General Leveaux called him 'the negro, the Sparactacus, foretold by Raynal, whose destiny it *was* to avenge the wrongs committed on his race:' and the Spanish Marquis d'Hermona declared, in the hyperbole of admiration, that, "if the Supreme had descended on earth, he could not inhabit a heart more apparently good than that of Toussaint L'Ouverture.

His powers of invention in the art of war, and domestic government, the wonder of those who surrounded, or opposed him, had not previously an opportunity for exhibition, as at the period to which we have arrived in this history. Embarrassed by a variety of contending factions among the blacks, and by enemies of different nations and characters, he was too much occupied in evading the blows constantly meditated in different quarters, to find leisure for the display of that wisdom and magnanimity which he so eminently exercised. Nevertheless, a variety of incidents are recorded in the fleeting memorials of the day, to corroborate the excellence of his character, and still more are impressed on the memory of all who have visited the scene of his government. Notwithstanding the absoluteness of military jurisdiction, which existed with extra power, no punishment ever took place without the anxious endeavours of the general in chief to avoid it, exerted in every way that could be devised. No object was too mean for his remonstrance or advice; nor any crime too great to be subjected to the rules he had prescribed to himself. The punishment of the idle or immoral labourer was being withdrawn from agriculture, and condemned to a military service dangerous or severe. In cases of treason he was peculiarly singular in his ideas, and the following incident will afford a specimen:

Shortly

Shortly after General Maitland arrived upon the island, four Frenchmen were retaken, who had deserted the black chief with aggravated treachery. Every one expected a vindictive punishment, and of course a cruel death. Leaving them, however, in suspense as to their fate, he ordered them to be produced in church on the following sabbath, and, while that part of the service was pronouncing which respects mutual forgiveness, he went with them to the front of the altar, where, impressing them with the flagitiousness of their conduct, he ordered them to be discharged without farther punishment.

It probably may be expected that something should be mentioned of the general character of Toussaint: and, if there was any object predominant in the wishes of the writer during his sojourn at the Cape, it was—to ascertain the traits of peculiarity in that individual,—to judge of the views, and of the motives that actuated him. The result of his observations was in every respect favourable to this truly great man. Casual acts of justice and benignity may mark the reign of anarchy itself, and complacency sometimes smooth the brow of the most brutal tyrant; but when the man possessed, for a considerable period, of unlimited power, (of whose good actions no venal journalist was the herald, but, to transcribe his errors a thousand competitors were ready) has never been charged with its abuse; but, on the contrary, has preserved one line of conduct, founded by sound sense and acute discernment on the most honourable basis, leaning only to actions of magnanimity and goodness; he has passed the strongest test to which he can be submitted; who, with the frailties of human nature, and without the adventitious aids of those born to rule, held one of the highest situations in society.

His government does not appear to have been sullied by the influence of any ruling passion; if a thirst of power had prompted him alone, he would soon have ceased to be a leader of insurgents; had avarice swayed him, he, like many others, could have retired early in the contest, with immense riches, to the neighbouring continent; or had a sanguinary revenge occupied his mind, he would not so often have offered those pathetic appeals to the understanding, which were the sport of his colleagues, on crimes which the governors of nations long *civilized* would have sentenced to torture! His principles, when becoming an actor in the revolution of his country, were as pure and legitimate, as those which actuated the great founders of liberty in any former age or clime.

Such was the character of Toussaint L'Ouverture, as regarded his office of commander in chief, and governor of the island of St. Domingo. In his relations towards other countries, he appears to have excited admiration for his justice, and the courtesy of every enlightened state: the charges of his most

inveterate enemies never extended to a fact that can diminish the well earned eulogies he has obtained. His rules of conduct were the emanations of a mind capacious and well informed; and but for the exertions of his talents, or those of some chief equally able, indefatigable, and sincere, the country, now blooming with culture, and advancing in true civilization, might have been a ruined state, sacrificed to the conflicts of disappointed ambition, revenge, and the whole train of evils which a multiplicity of factions could create. That there should be found partizans of each of these factions in the then divided state of France, to complain of every arrangement formed by this astonishing individual, is to be expected, rather than wondered at; and to these motives alone, there is no reason to doubt, may be ascribed all the calumnies which have been vented against him.

In his private life, Toussaint lost none of the excellence of that character which is conspicuous in his public actions. With much sensibility, he supported an even temper in domestic privacy; and in contra-distinction to the general custom of other great men, might be considered equally an hero in the closet as the field. To his wife, a sensible and affectionate woman, he behaved with the most endearing tenderness and consideration, and to his children imparted all the warmth of paternal affection; yet he had no overweening fondness to conceal their faults from his notice; even the smallest want of proper attention to an inferior, was censured with severity proportionate to the difference of their condition. If they obtained not knowledge from the transitory nature of human circumstances, so necessary to check the pride of birth or situation, almost always manifest in children reared in affluence, it was not the fault of a father whose life was conspicuous for humility of disposition, and a diffidence of his powers, proportionable to the elevation of his rank, or the accumulation of his honours. As his children grew to an age capable of that education which his individual acquirements instructed him as necessary to the sphere of life in which they were to move, Toussaint procured for them the best tutors he could obtain, and afterwards sent them to France under their care, for the advantages of higher instruction. His leisure, which was not great, was occupied in relieving those who suffered in any way undeservedly; nor did he, as is often the case in the world, weigh guilt by incapacity of distinction. The weak of every description were his peculiar care; the strong in intellect, the mighty in war, or the amiable in domestic life, shared alike his esteem.

In person, Toussaint was of a manly form, above the middle stature, with a countenance bold and striking, yet full of the most prepossessing suavity—terrible to an enemy, but inviting to the objects of his friendship or his love. His manners and

his

his deportment were elegant when occasion required, but easy and familiar in common; when an inferior addressed him, he bent with the most obliging assiduity, and adapted himself precssely, without seeming condescension, to their peculiar circumstances. He received in public a general and voluntary respect, which he was anxious to return, or rather to prevent, by the most pleasing civilities. His uniform was a kind of blue jacket, with a large red cape falling over the shoulders; red cuffs, with eight rows of lace on the arms, and a pair of large gold epaulets thrown back; scarlet waistcoat and pantaloons, with half boots; round hat, with a red feather, and a national cockade; these, with an extreme large sword, formed his equipment. He was an astonishing horseman, and travelled with inconceivable rapidity.

REMARKS *on the* CONTINENTAL CONFEDERACY.

[From Mr. Redhead Yorke's Political Review.]

THE state of Europe, at the time of the renewal of the continental confederacy was, in every respect, favourable to the cause of the allies. Bonaparte had filled the continent with apprehensions of the most alarming nature, and inspired all that surrounded France, whether friends or enemies, with fear, resentment, or disgust. The aggrandisement of France inflicted the deepest wounds upon the ancient public system; and her dreadful preponderance threatened, like an impending storm, to burst over the heads of a trembling world. No materials could be discovered, by which a system of peace, of mutual confidence, and security, might be re-established. A cold, distant, formal, and constrained relation, on the part of each of them, was the only proof that the powers of Europe were not leagued in open war against the French government. But it proved, at the same time, the general mistrust of the justice and moderation of Bonaparte; and the necessity to which every power was reduced, of maintaining an armed and constant opposition to his restless machinations. This armed opposition, in many essential respects, resembled a state of perpetual war; and therefore, it was not probable that such an unnatural order of things would be preserved for any length of time. Many causes, however, fatally conspired to retard any grand exertion in behalf of the independence of Europe; and in proportion to the inveteracy of those causes, the public disorders multiplied, and became more difficult to remedy.

The unfortunate jealousy that existed between Austria and Prussia, (powers whose mutual co-operation would have changed the

the face of affairs long ago) opposed an insuperable bar to any effective public league. To this cause must also be added, the languor that pervaded the whole continent, completely disheartened by the successive triumphs which the French had obtained over it by their diplomatic chicanery, as well as by their arms; the consequent dread of its being exposed to the revival of those state-destroying engines; and lastly, the facility with which a French army might burst into any part of Europe, after the peace of Luneville had left the German empire exposed to the mercy of the conqueror. Other causes of a subordinate nature might also be alledged, in order to account for the supine infatuation of all the continental states. But these will suffice for our purpose.

From the abject state to which the continent had been thus reduced by the indifference, timidity, or selfishness of its respective sovereigns, there appeared no hopes of a confederacy, until an extreme necessity should have forced the great powers into an union, as the last measure to which they could resort for safety. Thus, until the autumn of last year, we received no public acknowledgement from them, of the impossibility of their continuing any political relations with France. In the enjoyment even of a clouded repose, they vainly expected lasting tranquillity; and, to avert the effects of the storm that was continually sweeping from the face of the earth some prince or community, each sovereign crouched beneath that tyranny which was rapidly overwhelming Europe. At length, they discovered, that forbearance affords no security; that the audacity of the French chief increases with the success of his enterprises; that every dethroned or despoiled prince is a pillar of public independence destroyed; and that, in beating down republics and smaller states, it is the object of Bonaparte to arm himself with their ruins, in order to attack the more powerful with greater effect. But, it must be observed, that this change of sentiment did not take place, until after Mr. Pitt had resumed his official situation. I would not be understood from this to mean, that Mr. Pitt's return to office had the talismanic effect of opening the eyes of the continental sovereigns to a sense of their dangers; but merely to state the fact, in order to shew the reasonableness of my argument, that he either excited or contributed to the confederacy which afterwards arose out of it. Bonaparte is unquestionably entitled to the exclusive credit of having opened the eyes of the continental cabinets.

It was in the month of May, 1804, that Mr. Pitt returned to power; and on the 21st of July following, the diplomatic tone of the European powers underwent a sensible alteration, as appeared from the firm and spirited note of the Russian charge-d'affaires at Paris to the court of St. Cloud; wherein

it is asserted that " should Russia propose to establish a coalition, for the purpose of renewing a war upon the continent, it would not at all be required to seek any unfounded cause for it: the French government has long given too much and too just cause for breaking the bands of harmony, which the emperor has preserved merely by his moderation, and which he desired to preserve for ever." On the 28th of August, M. d'Oubril, the Russian envoy at Paris, in demanding his passports, presented a farewell note, in which it is declared, that, " in case the French government shall compel Russia, either by fresh injuries, or by provocations aimed against her, or against her allies, or by still threatening more seriously the security and independence of Europe, his majesty will then manifest as much energy in employing those extreme measures, as he has given proofs of patience, in resorting to the use of all the means of moderation consistent with the maintenance of the honour and dignity of his crown." Ever since this dignified declaration, we know, that the French government has not only assailed Russia through the medium of that formidable engine, the press; but that it has threatened more seriously the security and independence of Europe, by the assumption of the throne of Italy, and the incorporation of Genoa; both of which events are depicted with proper force, by M. Novosiltzoff, in his last note to the cabinet of Berlin. I have already observed, that Sweden had renounced her political relations with France, from the period of the violation of the neutral territory of Baden, and the midnight murder of the duke of Enghein which followed it. Thus we find, that two nations, by alienating themselves from France, afforded to the British minister a favourable opportunity for the revival of a continental alliance.

The time, the circumstances, the dangers, and the injuries of Europe, pointed out the moment of resistance. Accordingly, our government had made considerable progress in the formation of a friendly alliance with Russia, and other powers, before the arrival of Bonaparte's letter to the king; for, in his majesty's speech to parliament on the 15th of January, 1805, after mentioning the receipt of this letter, he observes, " I have, therefore, not thought it right to enter into any more particular explanation, without previous communication with those powers on the continent, with whom I am engaged in confidential intercourse and connexion, &c." On the 19th of last June, a message, of a much stronger nature, and calculated to encourage, as well as to make suitable provision, for a continental confederacy, was delivered to the house of commons; the terms of which denoted, in plain and unequivocal language, a reasonable expectation of what has since occurred.

Upon the whole then, it is evident, that there was a disposition among the principal powers of Europe, to confederate, for the

restoration

restoration of the balance of power; that this disposition was provoked originally by the encroachments and insolence of the French ruler; but that it was matured, and induced to display itself actively by the incitement of our government, and the means which it furnished for the commencement and prosecution of the contest. I have before stated, that the disposition to resist having been excited by the outrageous misconduct of Bonaparte, it cannot therefore be affirmed of Mr. Pitt, that he was the author of this change of sentiment; especially as many of the grounds of provocation had been given previous to his return to power. But, as there is a material distinction between a disposition and a determination to resist, so does the greater degree of credit attach to the statesman who knew how to take advantage of that disposition, in order to make it display itself in active, vigorous, and determined opposition. The confederacy therefore, must be considered as having been excited by Mr. Pitt, and the official declaration of the cabinet of Vienna, after the Austrian armies had taken the field, justify this conclusion.

Having established the fact of that part of my proposition, we are next to inquire, whether Mr. Pitt is responsible for the disasters of the allies? In any other country but this, such a discussion would be ridiculed; because, every rational man would perceive that, though the confederacy may have been formed, and the means of putting it into motion may have been provided by Mr. Pitt, yet the mode of executing the great object which it had in view, was the concern of those who were more immediately interested in its success. Nothing can be more childish than the supposition circulated in some of the English journals, that the whole plan of the campaign, and the choice of General Mack, were the suggestions of the British ministry. Writers who are capable of circulating such nonsense, must really consider the English public as a race of blockheads. But, what is not less remarkable, at the very time these writers were promulgating this folly, they declared, in the same breath, that Mr. Pitt had no share whatever in the confederacy; and as a proof of the fact, they referred their readers to the circular notes of Russia and Austria, in which nothing or a very little (as they asserted) was stated concerning Great Britain.

Doubtless, they meant their readers to infer, that the continental confederacy was an engagement wholly apart from the politics of this country; and they persevered in this mode of reasoning, until the disasters of the Austrian army induced them to alter their tone; and, for the sake of gratifying the venom of party, to assert, that Mr. Pitt, being the author of the confederacy, of course, he was responsible for the events which led to its temporary failure. It is perfectly immaterial to me, as a writer, whether too much is said either on the side of govern-

ment, or its opponents; but I cannot avoid observing, that in such perilous moments as the present, there is an uncommon degree of depravity in those men, who can thus trifle with the feelings of the public, by denying that ministers had any share in particular events; and after those events have terminated unfortunately, imputing to them all the errors that occasioned them.

If the cabinet of Vienna could not foresee the defection of the elector of Bavaria, and the violation of the neutrality of Anspach, how can any imputation be, with justice, thrown upon Mr. Pitt, for events of which even the immediate actors upon the scene had had no previous knowledge? I think enough has been said on this subject; and if Mr. Fox had been minister I should have employed the same reasoning.

ACCOUNT *of the* PLAGUE *at* CAMBRIDGE.

IN 1690 the king granted letters patent to collect money for the relief of those who were afflicted with the plague and pestilence then lately prevailing. Near 4000 persons in Cambridge were infected with it, and it cost the university 200l. a week to relieve them. After the poor had been provided for, a surplus remained in the hands of the vice-chancellor and mayor, upon which they presented a petition to the king, stating their hope that this surplus, together with what might be collected for future relief, and the re-establishment of their stock, which before the visitation of the plague had been exhausted by the erection of a workhouse, at an expence of 500l. and a house of correction, to set them again to work, and they therefore prayed for leave to inclose Jesus Green and other waste lands, and that the overplus of the collection might be expended in setting the poor to work, and the erection of a house of correction, which was ordered accordingly.

EGYPTIAN BREWERIES.

MICHAELIS translates the tenth verse of the nineteenth chapter of Isaiah in this manner: "The weaver's stools shall be overturned; and the brewers of beer shall break." He defends, in a learned note, this departure from the points, and observes, that the brewing of beer, or *zythos*, was in very early times a separate trade in Egypt, and that the different sorts of beer were called after the cities in which they were brewed; as we have our Burton ale and our London porter. It is not unlikely that Osiris set up the first public brewery, and therefore passed for the inventor of the art.

Answer, by J. Woodman, Jun. of North Curry, to T. Jarvis's Charade, inserted November 11.

AN HOUR-GLASS will your hint display,
And shew how fast time flies away.

☞ We have received a similar answer from T. Bullock, of St. Columb; W. Varcoe, of Mevagissey; T. Trobridge, of Plymouth; H. Glasson, of Crowan; T. Gill, officer of excise near Wells; T. Coumbe, of St. German's; R. Perring, of Kingsbridge; W. Bickham, jun. of Ashburton; Adrianus; J. Day, of Winborne; P. Ninnis, of Tavistock; and H. Lewarn, of Grampond.

Answer, by W. Varcoe, Mevagissey, to Palemon's Charade, inserted November 11.

YOUR first, Sir, is *Cot*, I declare,
And for your next let *Ton* appear:
These parts, combin'd, in order true,
COTTON, the poet, comes to view:

*** A similar answer has been received from H. Lewarn, of Grampond.

Answer, by T. Bullock, of St. Columb, to T. W. Z.'s Rebus, inserted November 18.

LINTON I think, Sir, will reveal,
The town you labour'd to conceal.

†‖† Similar answers have been received from H. Lewarn, of Grampond; and H. Glasson, of Crowan.

A REBUS, *by T. Trobridge, of Plymouth.*

A Spice, ye gents. with care transpose;
A quadraped you'll next disclose:
The parts, when join'd in order true,
Will bring a curious beast to view.

A CHARADE, *by Miles, of Tiverton.*

MY first a strong, a fam'd, and ancient king,
Whose conquests o'er this dusty globe doth ring;
Unto my next the basest wretch or saint,
Doth long to go, that he may ease his plaint:
Those who forget my whole, trust to it most,
By which their greatest gem may soon be lost.

A REBUS.

THE three-fork'd god that rules the wat'ry sea,
And stirs the rolling waves at his decree;
A king that early did attain the crown;
The father of Ulysses much renown'd;
The son of Jove, who great Patroclus slew,
And sent him gasping to the shades below;
The sister of Augustus then you'll face;
And then a Roman emp'ror, vile and base:
These few initials join'd you'll view
A gallant hero equalled by few.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

The following Lines were spoken, after the original Prologue to the Play of Barbarossa, presented by the Young Gentlemen of Mr. Weatherdon's Academy in Newton Abbot, at their Annual Exhibition, December, 1805.

WHEN last December we our friends address'd,
Our minds by Gallic threats were much depress'd;
The madd'ning rabble then made vengeful boast,
With fire and sword to ravage England's coast:
Their rafts, besides, long since excited wonder,
Said to be proof against our British thunder;
But all their gasconading now we find,
Dissolv'd in nought, like smoke before the wind;
They now perceive the British thunder's power,
And shrink, appall'd, beneath its fi'ry shower;
They see its blasts o'er ocean's limits sweep,
See ships up blown, or plung'd beneath the deep;
Forts, castles, cities, into ruin hurl'd,
By British thunder, sov'reign of the world.
This glorious truth, thro' ev'ry clime confess'd,
With transport fills each honest Briton's breast:
Then let us now the mighty thund'rers hail,
Who rule the waves, and thus o'er foes prevail;
But stop we first, to shed the bursting tear
Of heart-felt sorrow over Nelson's bier;
A man of courage, conduct, naval skill,
Whose loss with grief doth ev'ry bosom fill;
The Nile proclaims his first great feats in war,
Next Copenhagen, last Cape Trafalgar,
Where ev'n in death the hero vict'ry found,
And blooming wreaths his dying temples crown'd.
O matchless victor! chief untimely slain!
Thy fame, throughout the world, will e'er remain;
Th' historic page a monument will be
To show thy acts to all posterity:
So Britain's sons, by thy example fir'd,
And with their country's love, like thee, inspir'd,
In ev'ry age shall firm their rights maintain,
Crush haughty foes, and triumph o'er the main.
This duty paid, the tribute due we raise
To valiant Collingwood's and Northesk's praise,
Cornwallis too and Strachan next we greet,
With all the heroes of the British fleet.
A fleet, whose vict'ries lasting fame ensure,
By which defended England stands secure,
And will, we trust, with time itself endure.

LORD NELSON.

WHERE is the region on this rolling ball,
But knew his glory, and regards his fall?
The gen'rous Dane, his mercy lov'd to spare,
Hangs o'er the tidings with a sadden'd air.

The

The Turk, far plac'd beneath Egyptian skies,
Turns to Aboukir's winding bay, and sighs.
E'en on the day, when weeping Britons bore
His corse, in mournful pomp, to Albion's shore;
Ev'n then, perhaps, Sicilia's threaten'd lord
Breath'd the warm wish for his protecting sword.
And where the summer's richest fruitage smiles
Far in the west, amidst Columbian isles,
The tawny Indian, gaz'd across the main,
And sent up vows for his return in vain!

And trust the muse, on many a distant day,
When the tall vessels, on the watry way,
Bear from the realms of morn to British shores,
Golconda's gems, and India's spicy stores;
As o'er the seas in shadowy pomp they sail,
And the long streamers play before the gale—
If seen from far, Trafalgar's summits gleam
With the mild radiance of the ev'ning beam,
The sailor, pointing to the spot, shall tell,
There Nelson conquer'd, and there Nelson fell!
A passing look the wond'ring eye shall turn,
And the big heart, 'midst scenes of glory, burn!

God of the world, by whose divine decree
Britannia's cross, in conquest, rides the sea—
Our voice, in this triumphant hour, we raise,
Propitious, hear our pray'r; accept our praise!
Be thine the glory, that his conquering prow
So oft from combat bore the captive loe;
And O! in mercy, may thy high command,
Raise other Nelsons to protect our land!

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

TO A CONCEITED CHAMBERMAID.

GOOD Sarah, while with hourly care
You trim your cap, and comb your hair,
Our freedom to endanger:
Some secret impulse bids me say,
Where vanity has such a sway,
Good sense must be a stranger.

Perhaps you fancy to impart
Some soft enchantment to the heart
By such conceited trouble;
But pride and folly I despise;
And beauty, to the good and wise,
Is but a tawdry bubble.

If, therefore, you would court esteem,
No more pursue each idle scheme
Of gaining admiration;
Humility and virtue join'd
Should decorate the female mind,
And gild your lowly station.

Resign then, Sarah, all your tricks,
And mind your beds and candlesticks,
Your carpets and your brasses;
And know that mirrors were design'd,
For ladies polish'd and refin'd,
And not for chamber lasses.

HENRY.